

WELCOME ADDRESS

Professor R. Saunders

Chairman of the Organizing Committee

In developing countries the level and extent of activities in Science and Technology are determined mainly by people (decision-makers) who are often non-scientists. The decision-makers feel that Science and Technology are crucial to socio-economical survival and development but there often exists a large communication gap between themselves and the world of science. The genesis of the idea to form the Caribbean Academy of Sciences has indeed been the desire to bridge this communication gap. In addition, recent advances in Science and Technology have made it imperative for governmental as well as private sector agencies to acquire quick and reliable responses to scientific issues as they arise in our particular (Caribbean) context.

One of the first activities of the Steering Committee consisting of:

Professor R. Saunders	–	Chairman (Physics Department, U.W.I.)
Dr. D. Ali	–	CARIRI/TTSA/Ministry of Planning and Mobilization
Dr. R. Antozewski	–	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Dr. J. Duncan	–	Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. D. Irvine	–	UNESCO
Dr. W. Wiltshire	–	UNESCO
Professor G. Melville	–	Faculty of Medical Sciences
Dr. H. Ramkissoon	–	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Dr. C. Seaforth	–	Faculty of Natural Sciences
Dr. W. Suite	–	Faculty of Engineering

was the development of (draft) objectives of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences. These are:

1. To provide a forum for the interchange of ideas among scientists in important issues related to the application of science and technology to development.
2. To serve as a source of advice to national governments and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations in scientific and technological matters.
3. To facilitate co-operation among scientists and promote the co-ordination of scientific research in all its aspects.
4. To liaise with national and international research organizations and assist in facilitating their mutual interaction.
5. To recognize and reward talent within the region in the fields of science.
6. To undertake, and collaborate in, the collation and publication of the results of scientific research.
7. To raise the level of scientific consciousness in the region, and increase the public understanding and appreciation of the importance and potential of science and technology in human progress.

The Steering Committee welcome all participants to this Inauguration Meeting of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences at which the first officers and executive committee members will be elected and the draft constitution ratified.

